

ART. XIII.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.*

(Wednesday Evening, the 3rd July, 1839.)

At a Meeting of the Asiatic Society, held in the Grand Jury Room :—

The Honorable Sir E. RYAN, President, in the chair.

Dr. T. A. WISE proposed at the last Meeting, was ballotted for, and duly elected a Member of the Society.

Read a letter from J. K. KANE, Esq. Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, acknowledging receipt of several Nos. of the Journal of the Asiatic Society, old series.

Library.

Read a letter from H. T. PRINSEP, Esq. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, forwarding for presentation the following printed copies of public records :—

Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council of England, vols. 6th, and 7th, 1837, royal 8vo.	2
Kalendars and Inventories of His Majesty's Exchequer, vols. 1, 2, 3, 1836, royal 8vo.	3
Documents and Records illustrating the History of Scotland, 1837, vol. 1st, royal 8vo.	1
Excerpta é Rotulis finium in turri Londinensi Asservatis Henrico Tertio Rege, 1836, vol. 2d, royal 8vo.	1
Rotulorum Patentium et Clausorum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ Calendarium, 1828, vol. 1st, part 1, royal folio,	1
Rotuli Chartarum in turri Londinensi Asservatarum, 1837, vol. 1, part 1, royal folio,	1
Inquisitionum in Offic. Rot. Can. Hiberniæ, Repertorium, vol. 1, Laguna, 1826, et Ultonia, 1829, vols. 2, royal folio,	2
Report (General) of the Commissioners on Public Records, 1837, royal folio.	1
"The Record of Cærnarvon," Registrum Vulgariter Nuncupatum é Codice M. Sta. Harleiano 696, Descriptum, 1838, royal folio, ..	1

The Officiating Secretary apprized the Meeting that the Geological Society of London has complied with the Society's application for a duplicate copy of the deficient part of the 4th vol. of their Transactions.

Read a letter from the Rev. W. YATES, forwarding for presentation a copy of his translation of the Psalms of David, in Sanscrit Verse, and offering to supply copies for distribution to all the learned institutions with which the Society exchanges its publications.

Journal of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, 1837, vol. 7th, part 2d, 8vo.—*presented by the Academy.*Kittoe's Illustrations of Indian Architecture, Nos. 3, 4,—*presented by the Author.*

Chinese Repository, vol. 6th, from January No. 9 to April, 1838, No. 12.

Ditto ditto vol. 7th, from May No. 1 to September 1838, No. 5,—*presented by the Editors.*New Testament in Hindustání, royal 8vo.—*presented by the Baptist Mission Press.*

From the Booksellers.

Naturalist's Library, Mammalia, vol. 8th,	1
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia, History of Denmark,	
History of British Birds, by W. YARRELL, London, 1839, parts 10th and 11th,	

Antiquities.

Read a letter from H. T. PRINSEP, Esq., forwarding on behalf of the Government of India for deposit in the Asiatic Society's Museum a Silver Plate from Kotah.

*To the Secretary of the Asiatic Society.**Political Dept.*

SIR,—I am directed by the President in Council to request you will lay before the Meeting of the Asiatic Society the accompanying Silver Plate received by Government from Kotah, where it is stated to have been used for taking observations of altitude and distance.

2d The plate has been for sometime in the Government Toshakhanah, and His Honor in Council does not think that he can dispose of it more usefully than by presenting it for deposit in the Museum of the Asiatic Society.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Council Chamber, 26th June, 1839.

H. T. PRINSEP,
Secy. to the Govt.

A description and drawing of this plate will be given in a future number,

Mr. R. DAVIDSON forwarded a bag of leaden Coins for presentation to the Society; the donor has promised to send descriptive notice upon a future occasion.

Mr. W. LOCKE, of Chuprah, forwarded three large slabs with inscriptions, for presentation to the Society.

Mr. H. T. PRINSEP submitted to the Meeting a palm leaf manuscript having the appearance of great antiquity, and which from the circumstance of there being no separate note of the date of copy is presumed to be the original as prepared by the commentator, near 800 years ago. The *Pothi* came by dawk to Mr. PRINSEP'S address from Col. ALVES, who forwarded it from Rajwara shortly before he left that country for the Cape of Good Hope, but sent no letter with it explanatory of his wishes or intentions. It is presumed that this is the work referred to in the Proceedings of the 5th April, 1837, vol. vi. p. 240, and therein mentioned as the "*Baudh mat Jain mary grantha*," and which the Society then expressed the desire to obtain. Mr. PRINSEP added that the manuscript had been put into the hands of KAMALAKANTHA for ascertainment of its value and character. It proves to be a copy of the *Sama Vaya*, in the Maghadhi Bhōsha by JINESHWAR, a Jain, with a commentary in Sanscrit by ABHYA DEVA, composed in 1119 Sumbut, corresponding with 1063 A. D.

The work begins with an exposition of the Boodhist religion as professed by Jains, including the worship of *Harr*, *Hora*, and *Hiranyagarba*, i. e. of *Vishnu*, *Siva*, and *Brahma*. Then follow discourses—on Dharma and Adharma, showing what is religion and what irreligion, and on the qualities and perfections of *Bhugwan Sakhya Boodh*. On the virtue of abstaining from taking animal life, and of truth and honesty. A resolution of all things to one God. On the place of abode of *Devas* and their means

of locomotion. An explanation of regeneration, and the course of life by which the future birth and condition are affected. By what course of action the mind is to be brought into a state of purity and immunity from worldly passion. What sins are fallen into from association with women and loose companions.

On the measurement and depth of the Ocean.

On mental abstraction and worship. On food. What is proper and what improper to be eaten. On times for worship with reference to phases of the Sun and Moon. On behaviour to Gooroos and persons of sanctity. Ditto in assemblies of Jains. On logical proofs and the means of verification.

On the twelve motives of action in man.

On the *Saméra* mountain, its locality, height, &c. It is described as having day only on one side at a time, the other side being in the shadows of night, and as being always to the north of every other country. This description would make it the north pole.

On the size of the Earth and its seven Dweeps.

On the *Bharut Barta*, that is the civilized world of Hindoostan, and the *Aygya Barta* from the Himalaya to the Bind mountains in Rajmahal, including Behar, which is described as the site of all excellence and the birth-place of *Bhugwan Sakhya Boodh*, and full of sacred places of pilgrimage, of learned men, and authors of holy books.

The work closes with two slokas in praise of JINESHWAR, the author of the original treatise in the Maghadha language. The commentator describes him as the author of Granthas, and his own Gooroo or spiritual teacher. The Pundit KAMALAKANTHA concludes the meaning to be, that he is the author of this particular work the "*Sama Vaya*;" but the Jain Pundits declare the treatise to be of much greater antiquity than the commentary, and construe the expression "author of Granthas" as merely describing him as an author, not as the author of the particular work.

Ordered that the book be deposited, and that the thanks of the Society be conveyed to Col. ALVES for this valuable addition to its Library.

Physical.

Various specimens of fossils were forwarded for presentation by Dr. G. G. SPIESBURY.

Read a letter from M. A. D. DE CASANOVA, intimating that His Majesty the King of Oude has forwarded through his Minister the Nawab MAHAMED ALI KHAN, for presentation to the Society, skeletons of an Elephant, of a Camel, and of a Tiger, prepared by the writer of the letter.

Read a letter from H. T. PRINSEP, Esq., transmitting copy of a letter from Mr. Assistant Surgeon PEARSON to his address regarding specimens of a fragrant wood, leaves, and bark, found by him in the Darjeeling hills—also of a mineral occurring in the same locality.

The tree in question is doubtless the *Cinnamomum tamala*, common on the lower range of hills, and which affords the *Tezpat* of the bazars. The mineral is identical with the coarse Plumbago discovered by Dr. CHAPMAN in 1837.

To the Officiating Secretary to the Asiatic Society.

Political Dept.

SIR,—I am directed by His Honor the President in Council to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Assistant Surgeon PEARSON, under date the

10th ultimo, together with specimens of a fragrant wood and other articles found in the mountains of Darjeeling, and to request the opinion of the Society as to whether the articles are a valuable product.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort William, 12th June, 1839.

H. T. PRINSEP,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

TO H. T. PRINSEP, ESQ., *Secretary to the Government of India, &c. &c. &c.*

SIR,—I have the honor to forward for the consideration of the Government, and presentation to the Asiatic Society, should it be deemed fit, a specimen of a fragrant wood found in these mountains, the leaves of the tree of the same, a gummy substance found in the Morung, and a mineral I discovered between Pemkabarry and Idwiseangurry; in the hope that they may be found useful.

The tree from which these specimens were taken was about nine inches in diameter, and twenty-five or thirty feet high. The bark and the wood appear to be equally fragrant, and the odour to be developed by the application of a gentle heat; along with the wood are a few detached pieces of bark.

The leaves of the above tree are called *Tej-Putta*, or *Tez-Path*, or some such name, as I am told; and are used in curry as a *mussala*. If so, the tree is probably well known to others, though new to me; but I doubt if the fragrant quality of the wood is known.

The gum is common in the Morung, and may be collected in large quantities if thought worth the trouble.

The mineral is in a considerable quantity by the road side. I have not the means of analysis, but it appears to me to possess some of the qualities of plumbago. I had neither means nor time to search for purer specimens, but if my conjecture is correct, this mineral promises to be useful for machinery, and some of the purposes of inferior black lead. I have said that it appears to be a sort of plumbago, and I may point out how near some of it looks allied to micaceous schist, from whence, again, the transition is easy to some of the forms of gneiss. I have, &c.

Darjeeling, 10th May, 1839.

(Signed,) J. T. PEARSON,
Asst. Surgeon.

(True copy,) H. T. PRINSEP,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Read extracts from a letter from M. Alphonze BAZIN, Baron du Chanay, &c., with reference to a project of an Electro-Hydraulic Telegraph for effecting correspondence between Calcutta, London, and the rest of the world. An analysis of the memoir was given, specifying construction and expenses. The illustrative drawings and plans were also exhibited.

Proposed by Dr. O'SHAUGHNESSY, seconded by the LORD BISHOP of Calcutta, and carried unanimously—That a Sub-Committee of the Society be appointed to examine and report on the project to the next Meeting, to be held in the first week of August.

M. Alp. BAZIN communicated through the Secretary to the Meeting, that his political engagements, and the unsettled state of European affairs, rendered it absolutely necessary that his plans should be examined and reported on without delay, and he named the 12th July as the longest period he could wait the decision of the Society.

It was thereon explained to M. BAZIN by the Secretary, that the rules of the Society did not permit a reply being given within the period proposed; and that the project was so vast and extensive that it required to be studied with proportionate deliberation. M. De BAZIN still pressing for an early reply, it was proposed by the Honorable Sir Edward RYAN, President, seconded by the Honorable Sir John Peter GRANT, and unanimously agreed to—

That the memoirs, plans, estimates, drawings, &c. communicated by M. BAZIN be returned to that gentleman with the usual acknowledgments.

The Officiating Secretary then read the following Memorandum on the Society's finances, income, and expenditure:—

To the President and Committee of Papers of the Asiatic Society.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to solicit your attentive and immediate consideration of the circumstances I am about to bring to your notice regarding the state of the finances of the Society.

The subject divides itself under two sections—1st, the liabilities of the Society for past causes of expenditure; and, 2d, the current or monthly expenses on the scale at present sanctioned.

Our liabilities under the first head amount to the large sum of Rupees 16,530, and proceed from three items—7348 Rupees due to the Baptist Mission Press for the publication of the “*Mahabharata*” &c.; 1182 Rupees to Bishop's College Press, for the publication of the Volume of the Transactions just issued; and 8000 Rupees to Messrs. Sherriff and Co. due on the completion of the new buildings now in progress.

Our current *Monthly Expense* meanwhile amounts to 1373 Rupees, as specified in the undermentioned items:—

Oriental Publications,	....	....	....	....	500
Establishment for the custody of Oriental Books transferred from the College of Fort William,	....	....	....	....	78
“Journal” supplied to 126 members at 1/8 per mensem,	..	....	....	....	207
Secretary's Office,	..	....	....	....	85
Museum Establishment, including allowance to Curator of 150 Rs.					238
Museum Contingencies,	..	....	....	....	77
General Contingencies,	..	..	..	..	25
Library,	..	..	..	..	163

(*annas and pice not included*) Total, Rs. 1,373

The balance now in hand of our funds in Government Securities amounts to Co's Rs. 20,800 at 4 and 5 per cent., of which 4730 Rs. have accumulated from the monthly Government allowance of 500 Rs. as shewn in the margin, and are applicable to no other purpose but Oriental publications.

Our *Monthly Income* stands thus:—

Average payments by members, as shewn by experience of four past years,	....	....	....	....	....	400
Government grant for Oriental publications,			....	....	....	500
Ditto ditto for custody of Oriental Books,			....	....	....	78
Ditto ditto for Museum and Library charges,	..	....	....	....	....	200
Interest on balance, allowing for the full payment of debts,	....	..	....	....	....	28

Total, Rs. 1,206

Shewing an excess of expenditure beyond our income of 167 Rupees per mensem.

We have consequently to consider the best mode of discharging our accumulated debt, and of reducing our monthly expenditure so as to bring it clearly and certainly within our monthly income.

With reference to the contract with Messrs. Sherriff and Co. for our new buildings, a resolution of the Society directs our defraying the amount of this item by the sale of the necessary sum from our Government Securities. This will reduce our capital to 12,800 Rupees, yielding a monthly income of 42: 10: 8.

The bill to the Baptist Mission Press is so long due, and of such considerable amount, that we must take immediate steps to place it in course of liquidation. The Bishop's College Press demand has been made, moreover, under circumstances which render it a matter of justice to that establishment that the amount should be paid with as little delay as possible.

I have therefore to beg your sanction for a further sale of our Securities to the amount of 1182 Rs. to be paid to Mr. Ridsdale for the part of the "Transactions" now published. This reduces our capital to 11,618 Rupees.

To meet the Baptist Mission Press claim, I propose—1st, that we make over the balance of 4730 Rupees, applicable to Oriental publications, and accumulated from our Government allowance of 500 Rs. per mensem; and, 2dly that for the balance of 2618 Rs. of the same account we pay a monthly instalment of 500 Rupees, applying thereto the allowance we receive from Government for Oriental publications; and that pending the payment of these instalments, we discontinue all Oriental printing, translations, &c. by which a further debt must otherwise be contracted.

Our capital thus freed from all incumbrance will be reduced to the scanty sum of 6888 Rupees.

Should these propositions be agreed to, we will still possess funds to the amount of 6888 Rupees, which it seems expedient to reserve for one object alone, namely the publication of future volumes of Transactions of the Physical Class.

I must here mention two sources of expenditure almost immediately before us, at all events to be met in the course of the year; I allude to the forthcoming volume of Researches of the Physical Class, and the furnishing of the new Museum apartments. For the former, as already shewn, I fear we must have recourse to our "Securities." The means for the latter (which may be estimated at about 1200 Rupees) I would propose to collect by subscription among the members of the Society.

Current Expenditure.

From the items above specified, it is evident that we now expend per mensem 167 Rs. beyond our income. We must accordingly either reduce our establishments within corresponding limits, or devise some means of increasing our permanent pecuniary resources.

I proceed to take up the items of our expenditure *seriatim*, which will enable us to see where the pruning knife may be most advantageously applied.

1. *Oriental Publications*—500 Rupees.

This sum we are bound to expend, whether in new works, or in paying for the old by the instalments, as above suggested.

2. *Journal*,—supplied to 126 members @ 1/8 per No. and 12 Nos. to learned Societies.—207 Rupees

I wish heartily it were in my power to offer the Journal to the Society on more favorable terms, but the bills circulated to the Committee for the first quarter of the periodical, shew that it is only the support of the Society to its present extent that can permit the continuance of the Journal in a respectable shape. The plates alone for No. 4 will cost over two hundred and seventeen rupees.

The question as to this item of expense thus evidently becomes one of the existence or discontinuance of the Journal. I am glad to say we have not lost more than six subscribers since the commencement of the New Series—not quite the average number of secessions in the same period of previous years.

3. *Secretary's Office and Contingencies—Items of expense :—*

Salary to Herambanath Thakoor,	60*
Sirkar,	10
3 Peons,	15
Stationery, Postage, Lighting, Wax-cloth, Cooly hire, &c. 25	
Total, Rs. 110	

* This Officer's salary was increased from Sa. Rs. 40, (Co's. Rs. 42 : 10 : 8) by a vote of the Society in January of this year.

4. *Museum—Total charge, Rs. 305.*

<i>Items.</i>	
1st Taxidermist,	50
2nd Ditto,	12
2 Carpenters @ 8/	16
2 Farashes @ 5/	10
	88
Curator, on scale paid to Messrs. Pearson, Evans, and Jameson,	150
Contingencies on scale of last year (exceeded in the months of this year)	77
Total, Rs. 305	

With reference to this Department, DR. M'CLELLAND has favored us with a memorandum to the Committee, which I have had the pleasure to circulate in original.*

DR. M'CLELLAND in this Paper gives a brief History of our Museum—glances at the principles on which it should be arranged—offers suggestions as to the furniture required for our new rooms—and presents a plan (which appears to me an excellent one) for securing a correct nomenclature, by a system of correspondence with acknowledged authorities at home. DR. M'CLELLAND then notices the expenditure for the past year in this Department, and which exceeded the Government grant of 200 Rupees monthly, by about 100 Rupees per mensem (total 1171 Rupees) from which only 240 Rupees were expended on cabinets or other permanent articles.

DR. M'CLELLAND observes that the Head Taxidermist cannot write, and therefore cannot be entrusted with any important charge beyond his manual duties. The necessity however of having some well-informed man constantly in attendance to wait on visitors, &c. is justly pointed out, and it is recommended that the Assistant Librarian, MR. BOUCHEZ, who now receives 30 Rupees, be appointed to the charge on an increased salary, say to 50 or 60 Rupees.

* Inserted in this Number, page 415.

By this arrangement from 70 to 80 Rupees monthly would still be available for petty expenses, without exceeding our Government allowance "exclusive of cabinets and Curator's salary."

Dr. M'CLELLAND then proposes that the office of Curator should be *honorary* and *temporary*;—that instead of permanently employed carpenters, native shekarees and collectors on the same allowances, be maintained; lastly, that some well educated youth, having a taste for Natural History, should, if possible, be selected from one of the public Schools to conduct the duties of the subordinate establishment of the Museum. But this seems to be unnecessary were the Assistant Librarian employed as advised by Dr. M'CLELLAND in the first part of his Paper.

Dr. M'CLELLAND concludes by stating, that he does not object in *principle* to our maintaining a *paid* Curator, and that "should the means exist after defraying *essential* expenses," that some specific sum "a nominal salary of 30 rupees per mensem, for example, be given to the Curator, or a larger sum if consistent with the Society's means."

I have also circulated a copy of the "Rules for our Museum" which Dr. M'CLELLAND suggests, and I now beg leave to propose, that they be adopted, with this modification, that "the Curator be requested to accept the sum of 50 rupees per mensem for his "*conveyance expenses*," the Society at the same time placing on record a public declaration of their obligations to Dr. M'CLELLAND, for the liberality and zeal for the interests of Science he displays on this occasion.

It will be necessary also to allow a Writer and Duftury to enter the correspondence, and keep the books of the Museum.

This arrangement will reduce the Museum Expenditure as follows:—

Reduced Museum Scale:—

Curator's conveyance allowance,	....	50
Head Taxidermist,	....	50
Second Ditto,	....	12
Attendance of Assistant Librarian,	....	20
1 Shekaree,	....	8
2 Farashes @ 5,	....	10
2 Collectors,	....	16
Writer, Duftury, and Contingencies, say,	....	34
Total, Rs.		200

5. Library.—Items of expense.

1 Librarian,	....	100	0	0
1 Assistant Ditto,	....	30	0	0
1 Duftury,	....	8	0	0
2 Derwans,	....	12	0	0
1 Farash,	....	5	0	0
1 Gardener,	....	4	4	0
1 Sweeper,	..	4	4	0
1 Seculgur,	....	2	2	0
Contingencies,	....	5	0	0
Total, Rs.		170	10	0

At present I do not think it possible or desirable to effect any reduction in this Department. Should any vacancy occur while our funds still demand reduction of ex-

pense, we might promote the present Assistant Librarian on a small advance of salary; this would save about 80 rupees per mensem. But such a contingency it is to be hoped is far distant, as the Society is most fortunate in now possessing in M. CSOMA DE KOROSI a Librarian of equal celebrity and erudition.

I now beg leave to recapitulate briefly the measures I would suggest in order to extricate us from our old debt and bring our expenditure nearly within our income.

1st. The immediate payment of 1182 Rupees to Mr. Ridsdale, of Bishop's College Press.

2d. The payment of 4730 Rupees cash, and an instalment of 500 Rupees per mensem to the Baptist Mission Press, and the suspension of Oriental publications until the debt of 8000 Rupees is liquidated.

3d. The arrangement of the Museum on the scale above noted.

4th. The opening of a subscription for 1500 Rupees to provide furniture, cabinets, &c. for the new rooms.

On completing these arrangements our *Expenditure* will be:—

Library,	....	....	....	170
Museum, ..	..	..	....	200
Journal, ....	....	....	....	207
Oriental Publication Debt,	..	..	....	500
Custody of Oriental works, ....	....	....	....	78
Secretary's Office,	....	....	....	110
			—	Total, Rs. 1,265

And our *Income* :—

Government allowance for Oriental publications,				500
Ditto for the custody of Oriental Books, ....	....	....	....	78
Ditto for Museum, ....	....	....	....	200
Average of Subscriptions, ....	....	....	....	400
Interest on Government Securities ..	..	..	....	28
			—	Total, Rs. 1,206

shewing, lastly :—

Income, ....	....	....	....	1,206
Expenditure ....	....	....	....	1,165
				—
				Excess of expenditure still, Rs. 64

To meet this deficit we must unfortunately draw on our scanty cash balance every month until some opportunity presents itself for bringing our income and outlay on an exact par; meanwhile we must adopt one principle firmly, namely—"to allow no expense under the item of 'Contingencies' to be passed in any Department without the special order of the Committee of Papers."

(Signed) W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY,
Offg. Joint Sec. Asiatic Society.

19th June, 1839.

The sense of the Meeting having been taken by the President, was declared un-animously favorable to all the above propositions except the 4th. These were accordingly adopted and will be acted on from the first of August. Instead of a subscription it was decided by the Meeting to furnish the new rooms from the cash balance remaining, and that no appeal should be made to the members for extra aid, as long as any funds remained available.